CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Early Chemical Warfare Preparations/War Gases/
Gas Masks/Decontamination

PLACE
ACQUIRED

50X1

DATE
ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFORMATION:

50X1

DATE DISTR. 16 JUN 53

NO. OF PAGES 3   50X1

NO. OF ENCLS.   50X1
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

50X1

50X1

War Gases

50X1

1. The demonstrations of the effects of war gases on cats and dogs were carried out in glass walled cages, the size of which depended upon the size of the animals in test. [ ] never told where the war gases came from. They were brought into the demonstration laboratory in cylinders or sometimes, as was the case with hydrocyanic acid, in rubber balloons. The gases were admitted to the chambers and the effects were observed through the glass and recorded in reports.

2. Hydrocyanic acid killed the animals within a few seconds. Mustard gas and phosgene produced characteristic skin lesions, lung lesions, stomach poisoning, etc. Animals subjected to these gases were kept under observation for 24 or 48 hours. They were then killed and the organs affected were subject to post mortem examination.

3. Specific laboratory tests had been worked out for the identification of each potential war gas in air, food, clothing, drugs, etc. A part of the laboratory training consisted of carrying out these tests on contaminated samples. Each student taking the course had to identify the contaminants in several unknowns. He did this by going through identification tests in
50X1   a prescribed order. [ ]
50X1   [ ] the tests on clothing involved placing a piece of cloth in a flask, distilling, and then determining the poison in the distillate.

4. Clothing was protected by impregnation with a secret agent which was never
50X1   identified. [ ] samples of articles of clothing which were so protected, including suits, hats, boots, gloves, underwear, etc. The articles of clothing so protected were made of the usual material such as wool, cotton, rubberized fabric, etc. An impregnated paper was shown which was to be used for the protection of food in case gas attacks were expected.

ARMY (CW) EV					DISTRIBUTION						

5. ☐ shown very deep, ulcerated skin lesions on men but ☐ were never told
how the men were exposed to the gases. These victims came into the class-
room at the appointed time, spent perhaps five or ten minutes there,
never spoke a word, and were then taken out after their injuries had been
examined by the students. ☐ they might have been ☐
prisoners, or laborers in a poison gas factory, or even volunteers. ☐
☐ This work was under the direction of Prof (fnu) <u>Savitzky</u>
of the Military Academy of Leningrad (Immeni-Kirov) ☐ he was
a colonel in the Army at that time. He had a big reputation in the
USSR in the war gas field.

<u>Gas Masks</u>

6. There were two types of canisters used with one type of gas mask in the
USSR ☐ in chemical warfare. These differed only in
the contents of the canister. The one for the civil population contained
lime, charcoal, and perhaps other ingredients. The contents of the canister
for military were entirely secret.

7. The gas mask consisted of a rubber piece which covered the entire face and
perhaps about three-fourths of the scalp. It was connected to the
cannister by a large flexible rubber tube. The canister was about
18" x 15" x 4" and was fastened to the belt. The whole unit was heavy and
clumsy. There were frequent reports that soldiers engaged in long training
marches threw away the masks, but not the canvas carrying bags, because
of their weight and awkwardness. The German masks ☐
were smaller, lighter and less uncomfortable.

8. The entire civil population, including school children and housewives
was compelled to spend some hours in anti-CW training. This consisted
of the rapid adjustment of the gas masks and then wearing the masks while
going about their normal occupations. Gas masks for children in cribs were
available and also masks for horses and dogs.

9. Surgeons were compelled to practice in the use of gas masks in performing
operations, making rounds of the hospitals, writing reports, and examining
patients. ☐ also compelled to sleep in gas masks two or three times
as a part of the training program.

10. All canisters were painted khaki color and ☐ there was
no way to distinguish between them except by learning the point of issue.
Those issued by the military were never available to the civil defense
organizations.

11. ☐ some time in gas chambers with the regular
military masks and with protective clothing. ☐
☐

<u>Decontamination</u>

12. Decontamination of skin exposed to poison gas was effected by soap and
hot water. Afterwards a weak solution of iodine was sometimes painted on
the exposed area. For field use, trucks with trailers were provided to
furnish hot water showers for the troops. ☐ thousands of troops
use these showers in training.

13. Special trucks on wheels were provided for the decontamination of clothing.
Steam was used for removal of poison gases. If disinfection were also
required, formaldehyde was used.

14. For the decontamination of rooms and utensils, a portable sprayer was
used, strapped to the back of a soldier. For the decontamination of
large ground areas, large sheet metal drums containing powdered lime or a

strong lime suspension were pushed across the area by trucks. Holes
in the sheet metal iron drums distributed the lime over the area to be
decontaminated.

15. HCN was used in chambers only. In addition to the poison gases, tear
gases and sneezing gases were also employed for training purposes. [ ] 50X1
50X1 [ ] chambers containing these gases with gas masks.
We also had to enter the chambers without gas masks and to put the masks on
as quickly as possible when we were once inside.

50X1
50X1 16. All CW and anti-CW equipment used was exclusively of Soviet manufacture.
50X1

50X1 17. [ ] the importance [ ] attached to thorough
civilian and military defense against poison gases [ ] was made a part
of the Soviet preparation for the war. This was the result of the use
of poison gas by the Germans in World War I. The population was extremely
resentful of these measures, but they were forced through.

- end -